

## Reminder: Long-term Care Facility COVID-19 Test Results Reporting Requirements

*This document will be updated as federal and state requirements change.*

### Nursing Homes

#### Reporting requirements

- According to Virginia [Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control](#) 12 VAC 5-90-80, nursing homes are required to submit individual point-of-care (POC) SARS-CoV-2 testing data, including antigen testing data, to VDH.
- On January 8, 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) updated their [Reporting Guidance](#) for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Additionally, on January 8th, CMS released a [memo](#) with this update. [CMS testing requirements](#) were updated September 10, 2021.
  - You are required to obtain a [CLIA certificate](#) if you are conducting diagnostic tests for COVID-19. If you are conducting COVID-19 testing, you are required to report both the positive and negative results of COVID-19 diagnostic and screening tests. This includes data for all diagnostic and screening testing completed, which includes molecular, antigen, and antibody testing for each individual tested. **Individual POC test results (positive and negative) must be reported daily, within 24 hours of test completion.** Failure to report may result in enforcement action.
  - **Facilities that perform POC testing are required to report results for all POC testing that is performed within the facility (residents, staff, visitors).** If the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is the method by which POC test results are reported, then POC test results for visitors must be reported to NHSN.
  - Language in the document was modified to state that the NHSN POC Test Reporting tool is the preferred (but not required) method for CMS-certified LTCFs (i.e., nursing homes) to submit COVID-19 POC test results to state health departments and HHS.

#### How to report

- CMS-certified skilled nursing homes may report the POC test results to either the [VDH portal](#) or to NHSN. **Facilities only need to report to one system**, as results from NHSN are reported to appropriate state and local health departments using standard electronic laboratory messages.
  - If facilities choose to report to NHSN, they must first upgrade their SAMS access to Level 3. **Facilities should report individual POC test results (positive and negative) within 24 hours regardless of the system that is utilized.**
  - Information on reporting to NHSN, including [POC Testing Reporting Tool FAQs](#), can be found on the NHSN LTCF [website](#). CDC training slides are located [here](#).
    - Batch reporting is possible in NHSN via upload of a CSV (Excel) file.
  - Nursing homes are encouraged to have, at minimum, two individuals with access to NHSN at all times so that the facility maintains access to report into NHSN if a staff member leaves their position.

### *Penalties for failing to report*

- VDH is reiterating that nursing homes that choose NHSN as their method of reporting, are required to report individual POC test results, not **just** summary data. Failing to report the required data may result in citations and civil monetary penalties for CMS-certified skilled nursing facilities.
- If a facility holds a CLIA certificate and performs COVID-19 testing, they are held accountable to all reporting requirements, including the CLIA requirement for reporting.

*Note:* Nursing homes that have not been reporting individual POC test results into NHSN or the VDH Portal should report their retrospective data.

### **Assisted Living Facilities and other LTCFs conducting POC testing**

#### *Reporting requirements*

- On January 8, 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) updated their [Reporting Guidance](#) for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Additionally, on January 8th, CMS released a [memo](#) with this update.
  - You are required to obtain a [CLIA certificate](#) if you are conducting diagnostic tests for COVID-19. If you are conducting COVID-19 diagnostic testing, you are required to report both the positive and negative results of COVID-19 diagnostic and screening tests. This includes data for all diagnostic and screening testing completed, which includes molecular, antigen, and antibody testing for each individual tested. **Individual POC test results (positive and negative) must be reported daily, within 24 hours of test completion.** Failure to report may result in enforcement action.
  - **Facilities that perform POC testing are required to report results for all POC testing that is performed within the facility (residents, staff, visitors).**

#### *How to report*

- Assisted living facilities (ALFs) and other LTCFs should report POC test results to the [VDH Portal](#).
- Note ALFs can voluntarily report into NHSN; they would need to gain access via CDC (see instructions above).
- Facilities with both nursing home and assisted living components can either:
  - Report data for nursing home component to NHSN and ALF component to VDH POC portal OR
  - Facility can work with CDC to set-up ALF as a facility in NHSN; facility can then report both nursing home and ALF data into NHSN (likely under different facility numbers)

### *Penalties for failing to report*

- If a facility holds a CLIA certificate and performs COVID-19 testing, they would be held accountable to all reporting requirements, including the CLIA requirement for reporting.